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To "One of the People"

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To "One of the people"

Sir

I have received "with all due respect," your letter of instructions & advice sent me through the newspapers. & in obedience to the voice of my constituents, as ^{expressed} ~~indicated~~ by your letter, I have made some little examination & inquiry as to the facts of the matter by you, but in the multitude of other duties, I have only had time to ^{examine} ~~ascertain~~ the facts, but partially, & only in one case. & I deem it my duty ~~therefore~~ to make known to you the result thereof.

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The case to which I refer was under a former administration of the State government. & the name of the individual is known. The circumstances of the case, which I am now about to state, appear partly from the records & papers filed in the archives of the State, of which I have taken pains to procure an authentic copy, which I shall show you on my return home, & partly from the ^{information} ~~statements~~ which I have received from ^{some of my colleagues & others} ~~persons~~ who were well acquainted with the facts they relate, & whose ^{representations} ~~statements~~ I can place the fullest confidence in. I give it to you as I ^{think} ~~speculate~~ it whether it is correct or not, & do not undertake to say, further than the papers prove.

For certain reasons, which you need not will readily appreciate, I ^{shall} ~~do not deem it expedient~~ now to give you the names of the parties concerned in this transaction, nor of the administration which allowed it. That I leave to others of my colleagues if they see fit - & perhaps, by searching the archives of the State as I have done, to obtain the facts of this case, they may find others of a similar kind which they also will ^{think} ~~deem~~ it their duty to make public.

A person who was appointed ^{under a former administration} agent to expend ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{think} somewhere about six thousand dollars for the State, on a work which required little else than the labor of common laborers (such as might be hired in great abundance for ten or twelve dollars per month - ~~the cost of board for twelve dollars per month~~ exclusive of their subsistence) - ^{under} ~~needed~~ only the superintendence of a faithful & judicious ^{person} ~~agent~~, ^{such as may be found in any town in the State} & would think himself well paid at one dollar per day.

This agent was a member of the House of representatives at the time of his appointment, & I think until his account was finally settled - or at least the principal part of it.

He also kept a retail store in the immediate ^{of his agency} vicinity, & sold a great deal of ^{much} ~~rum~~ -

The people in that vicinity, ^{generally} ~~supposedly~~ most of these

under this agency His said practice
employed by him, were his customers — He was in the habit
of treating ^{them} with ^{liberality} rum ^{generally if not} ~~generally~~ on the days of election, & they
generally gave him their unanimous vote for representative.
& there were sometimes ~~if~~ it is believed ^{generally if not} ~~always~~ more
votes, & sometimes even money more, given for him over
his rum cash, than there were legal voters, or even male
inhabitants in his town —

A part at least of the persons he employed in this business
^{it is said in} were notorious ^{rum drinkers} drunkards. Some of them certainly were
miserable tools, ~~not worth their salt~~. Some doubtless were
capable & faithful in their work —

The circumstances induce the belief that some at
least of those he employed, were employed solely because
he could pay them out of his store, in rum & other articles
at a great profit, & not because the interest of the State
would be promoted by it —

This agent charged the State three dollars per day for
his personal services, ^{every day he was engaged} in this business, ^(whether necessary or not does not appear) beyond all his
expenses — which was allowed him —

He was bound, by every consideration of ^{fidelity} honesty,
to hire ~~the~~ faithful industrious capable men, from such parts
of the State as ^{would} afford them, on the best terms that could be
obtained for the State, ~~to hire them by the~~
~~month, & the best of laborers for such business might be~~
hired for twelve dollars per month, exclusive of their subsistence.

He was bound to hire oxen in the same manner, which he might
have done for five dollars per month — or ~~rather~~ ^{might} he ~~ought to~~ have
bought oxen on account of the State, ~~or he might~~ ^{might} when the season for
the work was past, have sold them again for their cost, & thus ^{have} saved the
State the whole expense of their labor — as I believe has been done in other cases.

He was bound also ^{to} provide subsistence for the men at the lowest
rates by wholesale, ^{best} at the ~~proper~~ market, & ^{paid} the necessary freight
to the scene of operations — & not to have ^{purchased} ~~that~~ of himself
charged at an enormous profit —

In a word he ought & every honest man, when entrusted with
business for another, ^{would} ~~ought to~~ ^{have} taken all pains & spared all his ex-
penditures, ^{both of time & money} for the ^{in the most economical manner} best advantage of his employers —

And — those servants of the public to whom devolved the
settlement & allowance of his accounts, ought to have allowed him
no more than was expended in this faithful ~~agent~~ ^{agency} manner —
I find however, on ^{an} examination of his accounts, ^{in fact} the state
of the case to be as follows — ^{constituting perhaps to be} ~~and~~ excepted —

